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scarcely consistent with, and seldom makes its appearance under, aristocratic forms of Government. It is the favourite resource of democracies, often the fatal instrument of their worst excesses, foreshadowing the approach, if it does not lay the foundations, of democratic despotism. When this stage is reached, nationality is gone, and centralisation alone preserves large empires from absolute disruption. But a time always comes when the central principle is exhausted, and the unwieldy mass collapses into dissolution.

The above remarks have been repeatedly exemplified in history. Autonomy was the ruin of Greece. Her corporate weakness, originally had its source in the want of federal organisation, and the undue predominance of the local principle. This was well known to her various tyrants and conquerors, whether native or foreign, who one and all—Greek, Macedonian, Roman—began their several careers of subjugation by pretences of asserting or protecting local independence, and proclamations of general autonomy. This was the principle on which the Spartans interfered with and subverted the Athenian maritime empire, and to secure a dominion of their own, and by means of which Thebes afterwards supplanted Sparta. The spirit of local sovereignty breathed in the proclamations of Philip and Alexander, long after Greece had become virtually a Macedonian province. The Roman generals, in their first appearance, always claimed feeble federalism of the Achaean league was patronised by Macedonian and Roman invaders, so long as the fiction served their selfish and ulterior purposes. Most of the great empires of antiquity arose by the triumph of centralisation over the right of local self-government. They fell when centralisation had run itself out. So the Macedonian, Roman, and Arabian Empires broke into fragments, which afterwards crumbled away before new national combinations. So modern Spain became disintegrated. So Turkey and Austria evidently tend towards early dismemberment.

The first symptom of disruption of the British Empire was the loss of her American colonies. But that this event might have been, for the time at least, avoided by good management, has been the better manifest since. It now seems the better policy of the Imperial Government to allow free play to the separatist tendency within its colonial sphere, so as to re-establish unbroken the ties that bind together the distant parts of the empire. The Federalism of the British colonies consists in their connection with the mother-country. Individually weak and constantly tending to wider disunion among themselves, their only safety from foreign insolence or aggression is in her Imperial predominance. And the strength which it is fondly imagined will grow into new nations or empires is thus constantly frittered away or absorbed into the general mass of British nationality.

Extent of territory is too generally regarded in its merely material aspect, namely, as a means of national wealth and strength, or of property in general. It has, however, other very important uses, both moral and political, particularly in democratic communities. Government upon a large scale, over an extensive territory, to be at the same time effective and salutary in its effects, must be adorned with nobler and more comprehensive principles—must learn to accommodate itself to wider and more exalted spheres of action—than if confined to the narrow limits of an insignificant number of remote interests, and must re-act upon each other, the federal or national element must meet with due recognition, or dismemberment is inevitable. This is a lesson yet to be learned, in its full force and meaning, by colonial Governments. Upon political grounds alone, apart from other considerations, it is desirable that our own colony should be no further subdivided. But from what has been said above there is at least a possibility that upon this point Imperial are not identical with Colonial interests. If remote districts be treated with injustice, they may be driven to find a remedy in the tendencies of Imperial legislation. And to avoid further separation, something more of a federal spirit must rule our metropolitan Assemblies.

INFANUS.

PARRAMATTA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SCHOOL OF ARTS ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the School of Arts, which in the ordinary course of affairs would have taken place early in September, but which, owing to the various causes delayed, took place on Tuesday evening, in the long room of Mr. Williams' Hotel. The attendance was better than on former meetings connected with the school, and the order of the day was as follows:—

On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Armitage, Mr. C. H. Statham, one of the vice-presidents, took the chair.

The chairman, explained the reason of the delay in calling the annual meeting. He hoped that some of the propositions might be made which would have the effect either of carrying on the institution more effectively than of late, or of dissolving it altogether. The latter alternative, he said, he should have no objection to adopt. He had been in at the death of one School of Arts in Parramatta, and he did not wish to be chief mourner on this. If it did cease it would be a lasting monument to the fact, considering the fact that other towns of the colony, with not half the population of Parramatta, were maintaining their Schools of Arts; and if, he would call upon the secretary to read the report:—

The secretary, Mr. WICKHAM, then read the following report:—

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Mr. ROBERTSON, after a few remarks, moved that the Chairman report progress and obtain leave to sit again on the next sitting day.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress accordingly, and leave was given to sit as asked.

THE LAND BILL.  
Messrs were recalled to the notice of the House stating that that House agreed to the Long amendments on the Crown Lands Act (Crown Lands Bill) and the bill was then read a second time.

PROPERTY LAW AND TRUSTS BILL.  
THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved for a second reading of the above bill.

MR. BUTLER moved, as an amendment referred to a select committee, to which the bill was referred.

The amendment was agreed to.

The other business having been postponed, the House adjourned at twenty minutes till Wednesday next at four o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.  
THURSDAY.  
THE SPEAKER took the chair at twenty-three minutes.

MESSRS. DEAN AND MR. FORBSTER asked the Colonial Secretary to have the papers and returns relative to the Messrs. Dean and Forbster, referred to in the last issue of the Standard, of October 1, been laid on the table? The papers and returns be laid on the table.

and moved that they be printed. Question put and passed.

PAPERS

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Mr. ARNOLD laid upon the table certain correspondence relative to an improved system of railroads recently submitted by Mr. E. Bell, C. E., for the consideration of the committee.

**MAILLAND AND MORPETH**

MR. HIDDINGTON presented a petition from Messrs. Morpeth, Blanton, Maudslayi & Co., of the Humber River, requesting that the bill now before Parliament for incorporating the proposed Morpeth Railway Company may not be left until the next session.

**TELEGRAPH OFFICE, MUNDOO.**

MR. TELLEY asked the Secretary if he had received any information regarding the request of the inhabitants of Mundoo, for removing of the present telegraphic office from its present position; and if it was probable that the Government would accede to their request? He also asked whether the Government intended to erect a new telegraphic office building at Mundoo, or whether they intended to alter the existing one?

MR. ARNOLD said it was intended to build a new telegraphic office building, and accept Mr. McQuigan's offer of the use of his house.

**PAPERS.**

MR. COMPER laid upon the table

papers, viz. 1. Report of the National Board of Education for the year 1860. 2. Report of the Denominational Board of Education for the year 1860. 3. Returns

relative expenditure in aid of charitable work. 4. Despatch from the Secretary of the title of Governor-General. 5. Correspondence with and from the Government, since their arrival in England. These several orders had to be printed.

**MR. BUCHANAN** and **MR. LUDLOW** were then introduced by the President.

**MR. WEEKES** withdrew his motion for a bill to establish Bonded Distilleries and a bill to amend the law relating to the same, and gave fresh notice for next Tuesday.

**QUESTION OF THE**

**HON. MEMBERS** rose.

**MR. BUCHANAN** rose to a question of order. He said that he had been alarmed at it; it was with reference to an hon. member who would consider as unwelcome the presence of a lady. He alluded to the lady who had been present at the dinner that occurred last night. On ascertaining that about a dozen ladies were literally there they ranged upon the table, so that the ladies were not in the way of the hon. members, he was glad to have access to that room but honorable members (A voice: "messengers.") He did not suppose that the ladies were in the way. It is to no one but a member of the House; in the public Press an intense anxiety is expressed that the ladies should not be members holding liberal or democratic views.

such an act as this was resorted to, to give a satisfactory account to prove that

every member of democratic views to his duty, this act must have been perceived by these gentlemen belonging to—he was not sure of the accuracy of the word—observers that for the last ten or twelve years this country had been associated with the United States in the most intimate manner, and that the friends they might select long enough without such an act of bloodshed. He concluded, however, that a practical joke was the characteristic only, he only wished he knew the party to tell the joke to, and he asked a question of the speaker, saying, "What is the question?" He said it was the first time that he had ever seen a man so much excited, and he thought it altogether and unmanly insult offered him in the name of the people, and he thought amongst the working classes, and the people of the country, and he thought that he was competent for him, he would conclude will select committee be appointed to inquire into the matter, and he thought that he would be pleased to consist of Messrs. Wilmot, Parnell, and the mover.

Mr. FOSTER recommended that the committee be appointed to inquire into the matter.

Mr. SADBIR said that when he Chamber last night he had found his last name was not in the list, and he was surprised at the time that it had been so.

there had been some seven or eight other hats that had been served the same way. It then seemed that some trick

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should be thus served by hon. members who were not so regular in their attendance.

Mr. DICKSON, had the accusation upon the statement of the hon. member, who has troubled the House with the subject; but as the hon. member has been committed by some hon. member in the early part of the evening, as having been guilty of some offence, it should be made into the circumstances, if himself. For that reason, and with that view, the hon. member's motion. At the same time, could not believe that the hon. member could have been guilty of so childish a sin, and that the injury has been done to the House. From the statement of the hon. member it should be established to find out occurred.

Mr. SPEAKER said the hon. member's second motion; which not having been the time must be considered as having dropped. Mr. HAY thought that if any discussion were to be had, it should be on the same stance connected with it. That would be proper course to take than to have an abstract discussion of the merits of the subject. The servants of the House were immediately under the control of the hon. member, and he was speaking in this way to his disorder.

had no reason to complain of what had been done, as he had not had the misfortune to have his hat mutilated; but if he had had, he should hardly have shown himself so

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some cases as to whether the usual formalities in Select Committees had been observed, and it was proposed to refer it back to the Select Committee.

The bill was read a third time and passed, and sent to the Legislative Assembly for its concurrence.

The report of the Committee of the Whole (Wednesday night) on the Chinese Bill was adopted, and the third reading of the bill fixed for the next sitting day of the House.

The Gold Fields Bill was taken into Committee of the Whole House, and the several clauses were agreed to without remark up to clause 9, which provided that "it shall not be lawful to issue any miners' rights to Chinese arriving in this colony after the thirty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two."

The President objected to the clause as impolitic, and also as injurious to the colony, as likely to reduce the produce of the gold-fields to the same small amount as was shown by the recent returns until the Chinese came in large numbers for the express purpose of digging gold. He objected to any concessions being made to the ruffianly aggressors on the Chinese, but would rather see such aggressors put down at once by force. This clause would inflict much injury on the colony, and its only other effect could be to make the disturbers of the peace still more turbulent.

He would like to have the clause expunged altogether, but if he could not do this, he would propose a middle course, leaving it to the Executive to proclaim gold-fields where miners' rights to Chinese may be granted.

Mr. ROBERTSON opposed the amendment, and said that although this clause was not in the bill introduced into the Assembly, he, as Minister charged with the control of the gold-fields, did think that the clause was absolutely necessary. The Colonial Secretary did not think so, and did not propose it, but there was an enormous majority in favour of it in the Assembly. The clause was in the original bill of the bill, and was only struck out on account of the particular views of the Colonial Secretary. He maintained the clause because he believed that more than anything else it would prevent the Chinese from coming here.

After some further discussion the President withdrew his amendment for the present, on the understanding that the House was to resume and progress to be reported in order to give further time for the consideration of the clause.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported progress and obtained leave to sit again on the next sitting day.

Messages were received from the Assembly intimating that that body had concurred in the amendments made by the Council in the "Crown Lands Occupation Bill," and in the "Crown Lands Alienation Bill."

The Property Law and Trustees' Relief Bill was referred to the same Select Committee as the "Lands Title Declaration," and the "Land Transfer and Registry" bills, and went on Wednesday night.

The Judicial and other offices Qualification Bill was again postponed.

The House adjourned at half-past eight until Wednesday next.

The Legislative Assembly met yesterday at twenty minutes past three p.m.

By way of answer to a question of Mr. FORTNER, relative to certain papers, ordered by the House, bearing upon the appointment of Messrs. W. Dean and Co., as land agents to the Government, the papers were laid on the table by Mr. COWPER, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ARNOLD laid upon the table copies of correspondence between his department and Mr. E. Bell, on the subject of a new plan for the construction and working of locomotive engines. The documents were ordered to be printed.

Mr. FIDMINGTON presented a petition from a number of inhabitants from Maitland, Hinton, and Morpeth, praying careful consideration of the Maitland and Morpeth Railway Bill. On the motion of Mr. COWPER, the petition was referred to the committee on the Bill.

In answer to Mr. TERRY, Mr. ARNOLD said the Government did intend removing the telegraph office at Mudgee from its present to a better site, but not to the site proposed by Mr. George McQuiggin's new house for the purpose.

Mr. COWPER laid upon the table a despatch from the Secretary of State in answer to an address of the House having reference to the title of Governor-General; also the first despatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor-General in England; also certain papers in continuation of a return furnished on the motion of Mr. Lang, relative to charitable and educational institutions; also, the annual report of the Denominational School Board, and a similar report from the Board of National Education. The several documents were ordered to be printed.

Mr. WATKINS presented a petition from the motion for leave to introduce a Bonded Distilleries and Bonded Sugar Houses Bill.

On the motion of Mr. COWPER, the second reading of the Metropolitan Corporation Bill, of the Flinders Charitable Application Bill, and of the Municipalities Bill, were postponed to a later period of the evening.

Mr. BUCHANAN brought before the House a matter of privilege. A number of hon. members' hats had been disturbed and greatly injured, and the speaker moved that the property of those who were attending to the matter should be destroyed.

Mr. DICKSON explained being a "pure merino." He had left the House early, and wished to be made. He would therefore second the motion.

The SPEAKER did not allow the motion to be seconded so long after it was made.

Mr. DICKSON then moved the question of privilege. If a disorderly act had been perpetrated, the Speaker ought to enquire into the matter. This was preferable to appointing a select committee. His own hat had not been disturbed, but he had been probably an accident. Too much had been made of it. The freshment room, rather than pure spirit, had been at the bottom of it all.

Mr. GRAY thought enquiry necessary.

Mr. DICKSON, who had been injured, believed it had happened by pure accident.

The SPEAKER said the matter should be investigated. In his opinion it must have been an accidental occurrence.

On the motion of Mr. ARNOLD, the House went into committee, to consider the expediency of a bill for levying tonnage dues in Wollongong harbour. In committee, the hon. member moved a resolution declaring the expediency of such a bill.

Mr. GRAY did not object to the principle of re-productive works, but thought it should be carried out all over the colony.

Mr. DICKSON concurred with Mr. GRAY, but did not believe any return would be got from this harbour, the vote for which was one of the greatest jobs ever perpetrated by the House.

Mr. GRAY did not find the hon. member exhibiting the same sense of economy in votes connected with Maitland. The Maitland River member, by working together to obtain more public money for their district, than in the case of any other. The works in question would be really productive.

Mr. MORIARTY would take a broader view, and consider, not whether these works would be reproductive, but the benefit such harbours would confer on vessels.

Mr. J. GARRETT stated that any condition had

been annexed to the vote of the House, and attributed the opposition of Northern members to jealousy. Mr. FIDMINGTON denied that any disproportionate amount of public money had been expended upon the Hunter River district. He had opposed the vote for these harbours, as likely to be a heavy draught upon public funds, and to involve further expenditure. He should not object if the sum voted were to be found sufficient.

Mr. GRAY had on good authority that the sum would be quite sufficient.

Mr. MORIARTY had no doubt Wollongong harbour would be reproductive, whatever might be the case with Maitland.

Mr. T. GARRETT was inclined to oppose the bill, as the principle ought to be carried out all over the colony.

Mr. STEWART considered the work strictly local, the cost of which ought to fall on the parties benefited.

Mr. GRAY would oppose the bill, if the principle were not made general.

Mr. ARNOLD did not see what better pledge he could give than by carrying out the principle.

The resolution having been carried, the House resumed, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

A similar proceeding took place with reference to a bill for levying dues in Kiamia Harbour.

The third reading of both bills was fixed for Wednesday next.

On the motion of Mr. COWPER the House went into committee on the Publicans' Bill.

Mr. COWPER proposed to amend the bill, so as to make it more effective, and to remove the penalties after coming into its possession. Mr. FORTNER moved a number of amendments.

The resolution having been carried, the House resumed, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

A similar proceeding took place in regard to the Crown Lands Occupation Bill.

The House then went back to committee upon the Publicans' Bill. Mr. WILSON's proviso was opposed by Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HARTUP, Mr. HOKKINS, Mr. LEARY, Mr. DARGAN, and Mr. J. T. RYAN; and supported by Mr. FORTNER, Mr. FIDMINGTON, Mr. HOLY, and Mr. COWPER.

An amendment on Mr. Wilson's proviso was moved by Mr. FAUCETT, to the effect that a portion of the liquor seized might be taken away for the purpose of being analysed.

After further debate, Mr. FAUCETT's amendment was negatived by 21 to 17, and Mr. Wilson's proviso by 26 to 12. The clause, as amended, also clauses 46 and 47, providing penalties for setting up a sign on unlicensed houses, and for cases not specially provided for, respectively, without amendment, were carried without division.

On clause 48, imposing penalty for neglect or disobedience upon clerks of petty sessions, the conclusion of the minimum penalty was agreed to, at the suggestion of Mr. WILSON.

On Mr. LEARY's motion, the maximum penalty was fixed at £10.

This amended, the clause passed without division.

On clause 49, giving power to three Justices to imprison confined drunkards, a long discussion ensued, and ended in expunging this and the succeeding clause.

Clause 51, for apprehending keepers of and persons drinking in a disorderly house; clause 52, fixing the character of such houses; and clause 53, making alterations; also clause 54, making delivery of liquor proof of sale, and without division.

The House then resumed, and further consideration of the bill was fixed for next day.

The House adjourned to the usual hour next day, at five minutes past eleven p.m.

We understand that some interest has been excited by discussions in reference to a commercial transaction with the French man-of-war *Iphegenia*, which sailed two months ago for France. An agreement had been made with the captain to supply the ship with cattle.

In fulfilling his contract the butcher alleges that he delivered his cattle in a sound state, at the side of the vessel, but in consequence of the mode of shipment they were injured, and some died—that the loss was imposed upon him.

To recover the debt, he issued a writ against the commander, Captain LETHBRIDGE, which was served by the Sheriff's bailiff.

Mr. BROWN, who on presenting himself at the vessel, was met with *dearments*, and prevented from going on board. He repeated the attempt and was again repulsed. The vessel then sailed for France.

The complainant does not show that he had no remedy against the agent of the Captain, but alleges an unwillingness to incur the expense of an action—a reason which may be sage and commendable, but one, nevertheless, which is no impeachment of the law.

The only point of interest in the question is, whether a French Captain can be arrested on board a vessel of war.

We did not think it necessary at the time to offer any remarks upon this point, because, really, the question is a question at all. Among the most simple of international laws is the absolute sacredness of ships of war, and the exclusion from their decks of all persons, whatever may be their authority of station, without the consent of the captain. It is thoroughly established that a ship of war is to be regarded not only in the open sea, but wherever it is found, as part of the territory of the country to which it belongs. A similar character belongs to vessels of commerce when in the open sea, but they are supposed, at least by our Courts, to forfeit this peculiar status when they are in the ports, and, therefore, subject to the municipal laws of foreign countries.

The territory of the nation to which it belongs. Its officers are the officers of its Government; their authority and responsibility are entirely limited to this relation. As we could not enter France to seize a debtor—as Mr. BROWN would be inadmissible to the palace of the EMPEROR to serve upon him a writ—so it happens that without the permission of the French Government, and through its agency, no legal process can reach a British subject, nor any other upon the deck of a man-of-war. If it were possible to arrest for debt, why not for political causes? The right of asylum is so sacred and has been asserted in such numerous instances to the honour of the nations who have granted it, that no one would part with it for the sake of a beggarly debt. If, however, a writ of debt could be served and capture made, the consequences would be that political refugees would be arrested upon fictitious claims and taken from vessels of war and made subject to political imprisonment. This principle would apply to any one whether a native of France or a foreigner under the shelter of its flag. How much more impossible to suppose that a Sheriff's officer can go and

arrest the captain of a man-of-war to whose custody is committed the honour of his flag, the management of his ship, and all the responsibilities of that high and independent position. It could not have been known to those who commenced this process, or to those who carried it out, that any violence inflicted in repelling them would have been beyond the retribution of our Government; that had the French ship, instead of frightened, Mr. BROWN, there was no power here which could have questioned the act; that had any attack been made to carry out the intended arrest, the French captain, in furtherance of his general orders, would have opened his portholes and blown the first boat that came near out of the water. It is said, and no doubt truly, that it is very hard the ship should take away cattle and not pay for them. The reply has been that the cattle was not in accordance with the contract, and that the money paid was equal to the debt. On this point we have no opinion, but we do know that if the agent employed by the French Government was the contractor he is liable to suit. If he was the contractor how are we to account for so absurd a measure as that of expelling Mr. BROWN to all the pains and penalties of his expedition. If it be true, and no one doubts it, that a man-of-war is part of the territory to which it belongs, Mr. BROWN was attempting an invasion of France. Mr. BROWN was exposed, therefore, to all the risks and perils of invasion! He might have been taken prisoner and committed to one of the dungeons of the *Iphegenia*. He might have been killed in the onslaught! His fate would have set in motion the diplomacy of any man of the name of BROWN—the candidates are so innumerable; but nothing would be more likely than the opposite fate should be repeated on any future occasion the same magnanimous attempt. No one can expect a Sheriff's officer to understand the precise bearing of international law, but we can hardly escape some surprise that the legal authorities who issued the writ were not better informed. Perhaps, however, the principle adopted—a rather popular and common one—was to "try it on." It may be a principle to serve a writ under any circumstances without any regard to the person to whom it is presented, or the conditions under which it is enforced. We advise more discretion hereafter.

Under such disadvantageous circumstances we might have lost, even at the very moment of his expected triumph, when seizing the collar of the commander, a useful servant of the public—for so we deem Mr. BROWN—one who has made more captures than any General in our army since the Peace of 1815.

THE QUARTER'S BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN SYDNEY.

DURING the quarter ended 30th September, 1861,—the Australian winter,—there were registered in the City of Sydney 661 births and 265 deaths; being the highest number of births, and the lowest number of deaths, recorded in any quarter since the commencement of the Registry Act in 1856.

The average numbers of the winter quarter, deduced from those of the five preceding winters, and corrected for increase of population, are 604 births and 348 deaths. The three months just ended have, therefore, given 57 births above and 83 deaths below the average.

The excess of births over deaths was 396, a natural increase of more than four souls per annum, more than 30 per week, and 1571 per annum.

BIRTHS.—The births during the past quarter were at the annual rate of 46 to every 1000 persons living, or 1 in 22. The rate of the corresponding quarter of last year was 43 per 1000; the mean of the five years 1856-60 was 42 per 1000.

DEATHS.—The mortality of the quarter was at the annual rate of 19 per 1000, or 1 in 54 of the city population. The mean death rate of five preceding winters was 25 in 1000; but in the winter of 1860 the citizens died at the rate of 37 per 1000. The death rate of the past quarter was, therefore, 6 per 1000 below the winter average, and 18 per 1000 below the rate of the winter of last year.

WATER.—The mean shade temperature of the weather, at the Sydney Observatory, was 53, nearly one degree below the mean of the two previous winters. The degree of humidity was 73.5, complete saturation being represented by 100; the mean humidity of the two previous winters was 74.6. The rain-fall during the 92 days was 14.96 inches; the rainy days were 36; the average being 19.94 inches of rain, and 69 rainy days. The quarter was, therefore, colder and drier than the average.

The numbers of births and deaths registered in the city during each of the last five winters, with the increase of population from the excess of births over deaths, were as follows:—

No. 1.—NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SEPTENNIAL QUARTER.

Year	Births	Deaths	Mean temperature
1857	553	291	28.2
1858	604	299	30.5
1859	609	281	31.9
1860	609	322	31.9
1861	661	265	33.6

The great difference between the past quarter and the corresponding season of last year, already noticed, is here particularly striking. The number of deaths is barely above one-half the excess of births over deaths, nearly *negligible*.

The proportions which these numbers bear to the living population, corrected by results obtained from the late census, are stated below.

No. 2.—ANNUAL RATE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SEPTENNIAL QUARTER.

Year	To 1000 living	Births	Deaths	Ratio
1857	40.51	21.33	18.15	2.28
1858	43.75	21.06	18.15	2.28
1859	42.90	20.13	18.15	2.28
1860	43.14	20.13	18.15	2.28
1861	46.18	25.16	18.15	2.28

The exact differences in favour of the past three months are here seen to be, that the birth rate is 3.69 per 1000 above the average, and the death rate 6.64 below it.

The next table gives a connected view of the number of births and deaths registered in each quarter and in each year.

No. 3.—NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER AND YEAR.

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
1857	626	641	653	652	2572
1858	624	631	604	607	2466
1859	645	665	600	548	2458
1860	688	607	609	545	2459
1861	476	640	661	—	1777

Population. Births. Deaths.

Year	Population	Births	Deaths
1857	54,186	2372	1317
1858	54,708	2365	1447
1859	55,376	2378	1496
1860	55,926	2349	1836
1861	56,777	—	—

The largest number of births in any one quarter occurred in the quarter just past, 661; the smallest in the first quarter of the present year, 476. The lowest number of deaths occurred last quarter, 265; the highest in June of last year, 573.

The table below shows how the above numbers stood relatively to those of the living population, and how the rates of birth and death appeared to be influenced by the respective seasons of the year.

No. 4.—ANNUAL RATES PER THOUSAND.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1857	43.75	25.39
1858	43.81	26.22
1859	42.96	26.39
1860	42.23	33.14
1861	41.92	28.52
1861	33.99	26.21

It will be observed in this table that the rate of mortality during the past quarter was lower than in any previous quarter which the table comprises. The mean mortality of our winter is seen to have been 25 in the 1000; while the deaths during the winter of the present year were not much more than 18 in the 1000.

Comparing the relative rates of the four seasons, we find that the season most fruitful in births is autumn; and that the season most favourable to life is winter.

No. 5.—DEATHS AT DIFFERENT AGES IN THE WINTER QUARTER.

Age	Deaths
Under 5	12
5 to 10	14
10 to 15	11
15 to 20	10
20 to 25	11
25 to 30	12
30 to 35	13
35 to 40	14
40 to 45	15
45 to 50	16
50 to 55	17
55 to 60	18
60 to 65	19
65 to 70	20
70 to 75	21
75 to 80	22
80 to 85	23
85 to 90	24
90 to 95	25
95 to 100	26

At each of the four periods of human existence here specified, the mortality of the past quarter was lower than in any preceding quarter.

No. 6.—DEATHS FROM DIFFERENT CAUSES IN THE WINTER QUARTER.

Cause	Deaths
Consumption	23
Nervous system	24
Lungs	25
Circulation	26
Digestive organs	27
Violence	28
All other causes	29

Compared with the previous winter the past quarter has a diminished mortality under each of the specified causes. Diseases of the nervous system and those of the digestive organs less fatal than in either of the four.

This is the first quarter in which the official returns have given the births and deaths registered in the several suburbs. The numbers are subjoined, but the means of instituting comparison with former periods are not supplied.

No. 7.—NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE SEVERAL SUBURBS, DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1861.

Suburb	Births	Deaths
Totals	630	214
Belmain	40	8
Newtown	65	13
Chippendale	118	30
Paddington	84	18
St. George	94	19
St. Leonards	37	12

THE following communication from the New South Wales Immigration Lecturer was laid upon the table of the Legislative Assembly yesterday, by Mr. COWPER:—

No. 13, West Strand, London, 24th August, 1861.

Sir,—We have the honour to report to the Government the course of the proceedings since our arrival in England, on the mission contemplated by section 2 of the Act 23 Viet. 24.

We landed in Liverpool on Sunday, the 4th August, and left that town the same day. Mr. Parkes for Birmingham and Mr. Dalley for London. On the morning of the 8th Mr. Parkes joined Mr. Dalley at Birmingham. Mr. Parkes communicated with one of the members of the borough, with the Mayor, and others, on the subject of our mission to England; and in London we have both anxiously availed ourselves of whatever opportunities have offered to ascertain how far public feeling may be favourable to the objects we have in view. From our intercourse with persons variously connected with the great interests of the country, and as the general result of our inquiries, we are led to form an opinion that there is a growing disposition among the projected classes of England to discourage emigration. But in the humble ranks of life we have found generally a desire for information respecting the colonies, and in many cases a strong inclination to remove to Australia.

On the 9th we called at the Colonial Office, and also at the office of Mr. Hamilton, both the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Hamilton were out of town. A few days later, on the 15th instant, we had an interview with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and received from his Grace, as well as from other gentlemen of his department, the assurance that every assistance would be afforded to us by them in carrying out the views of the colonial Government.

On the 12th we had an interview with Mr. Dalley at the Colonial Land and Emigration Office in Park-street, and we received from that gentleman the most courteous attention, and the assurance that the Commissioners would be glad to assist us at any time with information or otherwise.

During this period we opened communications with the colonial Government, and the result of our inquiries was that the first of June 1861, and the Company of Liverpool, and T. Mackay and Company of London, in order to ascertain ourselves with the rates of passage, dietary, and other similar matters, we had arranged to visit the emigrant ships. We find that the emigrant firms are desirous of establishing a line of passenger vessels between London and Australia, and that a student inducement can be offered in the shape of storage passages.

On the 18th we proceeded to Birmingham with the intention of holding a public meeting in that town. Considerations arising from our first preliminary inquiries having been made there, and the fact that the emigrant firms were to visit the emigrant ships, we decided on selecting that place for the commencement of our public address. On arriving in Birmingham we immediately took steps for convening a meeting at a room in the town, and we arranged for the delivery of an address in the Music Hall, the second largest hall in the town on the evening of the 18th. Though the notice given was short, the audience that assembled must have numbered 1500 persons (including many ladies), and was remarkably orderly and attentive. Mr. Parkes addressed the meeting, and spoke for one hour and a half, briefly explaining the origin and history of the colony, its present social state and system of Government, giving the latest statistics of gold, wool, and other products, and its means of communication and education. It appears to us that the first of the policy of the Government, as embodied in the bill now passed into law. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alderman Baldwin, a wealthy and influential manufacturer, and a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Parkes.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Parkes, a gentleman who has been a well-known public man in Birmingham for fifty years, while this was being done at Birmingham, Mr. Dalley proceeded to Coventry, and made arrangements for a public meeting on the evening of the 22nd, which took place in St. Mary's Hall, and was presided over by the Mayor of the city. Mr. Dalley addressed the Coventry meeting, occupying the whole evening with his explanation of the progress and condition of the colony, and the manifold advantages as a field for British emigration. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Wedderburn, vicar of St. Michael's, the meeting, which was a very crowded and respectable one, resolved to











